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Page: 1/10

**Working Party on the Accession of
the Union of the Comoros**

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ACCESSION OF THE UNION OF THE COMOROS

ACTION PLANS TO ENSURE THE WTO CONSISTENCY OF NATIONAL LAWS¹

Revision

The following communication, dated 23 May 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Union of the Comoros.

¹Please note that Comoros undertakes to complete the actions to be taken listed under sections A, "Measures during the accession process", prior to accession to the WTO. The actions to be taken listed under sections B, "Measures after accession", will be completed after accession to the WTO following the implementation time frame.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SPS-RELATED MEASURES	3
2. TRIPS-RELATED MEASURES.....	5
3. CUSTOMS FORMALITIES AND CUSTOMS VALUATION	6
(a).... Measures related to the Customs Valuation Agreement	6
(b).... Fees and charges	7
(c).... Trade facilitation	7
4. TBT-RELATED MEASURES	8
5. MEASURES RELATED TO THE FOREIGN TRADE REGIME	10

1. SPS-RELATED MEASURES

Description	Action to be taken	Time frame
Strengthen the national system of governance for SPS measures	Update and operationalize the SPS National Committee	First quarter of 2024
	Prepare a national handbook of procedures for the SPS system	Second quarter of 2024
	Build national capacity as regards principles of equivalence and transparency	Third quarter of 2024
	Build capacity in respect of the formulation, adoption and revision of standards at the regional and international level	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Set up an SPS information portal (website)	Second quarter of 2024
Update the legal and regulatory framework for sanitary and phytosanitary measures (Codex, OIE and IPPC)	Update and implement the Food Law	First quarter of 2024
	Prepare and adopt implementing texts for the Food Law	Third quarter of 2024
	Develop and implement a strategic plan for the implementation of the National Law on Food and Nutrition	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Revise Law No. 06-010/AU of 2 December 2006 on plant protection in Comoros	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Prepare and adopt regulatory texts for the Plant Protection Law	First quarter of 2025
	Prepare texts relating to the principles of equivalence, transparency, zoning and compartmentalization	Third quarter of 2024
	Finalize the adoption and enactment process for the Law on Plant Protection Products (pesticides)	Second quarter of 2024
	Prepare draft texts on technical regulations for pesticides	Third quarter of 2024
	Prepare and implement veterinary legislation (Law on Veterinary Sanitary Control, draft Decree on Veterinary Sanitary Control and draft Law on Veterinary Public Health)	Second quarter of 2025
Strengthen the national plant protection system in accordance with IPPC guidelines	Update the PVS evaluation	Second quarter of 2024
	Establish and operationalize the NPPO in accordance with international standards	Second quarter of 2025
	Establish an institutional framework for pesticide management	Second quarter of 2024
	Support and strengthen the establishment and operation of a plant health analysis laboratory	First quarter of 2025
	Train specialists on plant protection and laboratory analysis	Fourth quarter of 2023
	Prepare and validate a handbook of working procedures	Second quarter of 2024
	Organize a high-level workshop on the development of a road map for the National Codex Alimentarius Committee (CNCA) and the creation of Codex technical sub-committees	Third quarter of 2024
	Establish a permanent secretariat for the CNCA and provide a set of operational tools	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Establish and operationalize a digital platform for sharing CODEX information with all stakeholders	Fourth quarter of 2024

Description	Action to be taken	Time frame
	Organize a workshop to raise stakeholder awareness of the application of CODEX standards	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Develop national standards based on CODEX standards	Fourth quarter of 2024
Strengthen the national animal health protection mechanism in accordance with OIE guidelines	Adopt the Livestock Code	Second quarter of 2024
	Support and strengthen the establishment and operation of an animal health analysis laboratory	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Provide stakeholders with training on food product protection	First quarter of 2025
Strengthen the national framework for sanitary and phytosanitary control coordination and management	Strengthen the coordination and cooperation of SPS system stakeholders	Second quarter of 2024
	Define an action plan and the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder involved in implementing the SPS system	Third quarter of 2024
	Support the development of a medium-term strategy for each institution in the SPS system	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Establish a system for monitoring SPS system activities and the managerial measures of each entity	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Build producers' capacity in respect of good SPS practices	Third quarter of 2024
	Organize a regular meeting to validate and/or revise the capacity-building strategy for SPS system stakeholders	First quarter of 2024
	Organize an annual meeting to review the implementation of the capacity-building strategy for SPS system stakeholders and identify possibilities	Second quarter of 2024
Strengthen and operationalize government entities implementing the SPS system	Adopt and implement the SPS system's ecosystemic and scientific approach	First quarter of 2025
	Develop outreach activities to support implementation of the SPS system and SPS measures	First quarter of 2024
	Training on testing and certification	First quarter of 2025

2. TRIPS-RELATED MEASURES

Description	Action to be taken	Time frame
Revision of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize meetings to work on updating the Law - Circulate updates to the Law for consultation - Extend consultations and adoption to stakeholders at the national level - Submission to the Council of Ministers - Submission to the National Assembly for adoption - Implementing Decree - Implementation 	November 2024
Capacity building for Comorian Intellectual Property Office (OCPI) staff and other actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff training in specific areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patent specialists (4) • Distinctive sign specialists (3) • Geographical indication experts (4) • Specialist in copyright and related rights management • Customs officials, police officers and officials responsible for copyright and related rights protection and unfair competition - Effective implementation 	December 2024
Project to identify and promote local products (see ongoing Ylang Ylang Project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to assist cooperatives in the drafting of product (Ylang Ylang) specifications with a view to obtaining protected geographical indication (PGI) status for products - Identification of other products for PGI purposes - Training of geographical indication facilitators (minimum five) 	Third quarter of 2025
Technical and financial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Computerization of the Comorian Intellectual Property Office (OCPI) - Institutionalization of the country label "made in Comoros" - Creation of a database containing all intellectual property titles - Collective Management Organization (CMO) technical assistance, e.g. the establishment of an online sales digitization system for the benefit of the CMO - Undertake a study visit and engage in knowledge-sharing to learn about copyright and related rights management in other spaces (countries) 	December 2025

3. CUSTOMS FORMALITIES AND CUSTOMS VALUATION

(a) Measures related to the Customs Valuation Agreement

Description	Action to be taken	Time frame
Draft Law revising and amending certain customs valuation provisions of the Customs Code to ensure consistency with the WTO Agreement	1. Submit final document to the Council of Ministers for validation	July 2023
	2. Submit document to the National Assembly for adoption	September 2023
	3. Draft an implementing decree for the measures	First quarter of 2024
	4. Draft implementing texts for the measures	Second quarter of 2024
Adaptation and implementation of the WTO valuation system	1. Staff training on the Customs Valuation Agreement: customs, freight forwarders and the actors concerned	Second quarter of 2024
	2. Implementation of valuation system in full conformity with WTO rules	Third quarter of 2024
	3. Workshops, awareness-raising seminars, and study and training visits for staff; targeted training for the actors concerned	Fourth quarter of 2024-October 2023
	4. Creation of a platform for information and analysis on customs valuation	First quarter of 2025
	5. Analysis of mirror data for statistical needs	Second quarter of 2025

(b) Fees and charges

Description	Action to be taken	Time frame
Elimination of other duties and charges (ODCs): (RCI, RCCI, AI and PI) at the customs cordon in the Union of the Comoros	Provision to be made for the elimination of the RCCI in the 2023 Finance Law Provision to be made for the elimination of the AI and RCI in the 2023 Finance Law Provision to be made for the elimination of the PI in the 2024 Finance Law	Second quarter of 2023 First quarter of 2024 First quarter of 2025
Establishment of the VAT regime	Impact study on the implementation of VAT	Fourth quarter of 2023
	Communication campaign	First quarter of 2024
	Preparation of a draft law in this respect, to be validated at a national workshop	First quarter of 2026
	Adoption of draft law by Parliament, and enactment	Second quarter of 2026
Elimination of the Single Administrative Charge (RAU) at the customs cordon	Provision to be made for the elimination of the RAU in the 2024 Finance Law	First quarter of 2025

(c) Trade facilitation

No.	Subject	Action to be taken	Time frame
1	Advance rulings	Upon request, issuance of a ruling in a reasonable time-bound manner, providing reliable and binding information on several customs issues prior to import/export (Article 3)	25 September 2023
2	Disciplines on fees and charges	Implementation of disciplines covering fees and charges imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation, and limitation of such fees and charges to the approximate cost of the services provided. This also includes a requirement for the compulsory periodic publication and review of such fees and charges with a view to reducing their number and diversity (Article 6.1)	First quarter of 2024
3	Penalties	Ensure that penalty measures are applied to persons responsible for infringing a law, a regulation or a customs procedure. Such penalties shall be proportional to the degree and gravity of the offence, and conflicts of interest shall be avoided in establishing them (Article 6.3)	15 December 2023
4	Pre-arrival processing	Adoption or maintenance of a mechanism allowing the trader to submit import documentation prior to the arrival of goods (Article 7.1)	First quarter of 2024
5	Electronic payment	Establish a mechanism allowing traders the option of electronic payment for duties, taxes, fees and charges (Article 7.2)	April 2024
6	Separation of release from final determination	Adoption or maintenance of procedures allowing the release of goods prior to the final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges (Article 7.3)	December 2023
7	Average release times	Periodic and consistent measurement and publication of the average release time for goods (Article 7.6)	Second quarter of 2024
8	Authorized operators	Creation of a fair system that rewards compliance with the rules and establishment of additional trade facilitation measures for selected operators (Article 7.7)	Fourth quarter of 2024
9	Expedited shipments	Adoption or maintenance of procedures allowing for the expedited release of at least those goods entered through air cargo facilities to persons who apply for such treatment, while maintaining customs control (Article 7.8)	Second quarter of 2024

4. TBT-RELATED MEASURES

Description	Action to be taken	Time frame
1. Establish a framework for standardization	Preparation and adoption of the Law on quality standards	Second quarter of 2024
	Construction of premises and provision of equipment and furniture for the Comorian Standardization Office (BCN)	Third quarter of 2024
	Capacity building for BCN staff	Third quarter of 2024
	Promotion of national, regional and international standards approved by enterprises and the public	Third quarter of 2025
	Support for the development and implementation of the stakeholder communication and outreach plan	Second quarter of 2024
	National Standards Council (CNN) to take on the role of National Quality Council (CNQ)	Third quarter of 2023
2. Establish a national technical regulation system	Capacity building for the National Technical Barriers to Trade Committee	Third quarter of 2024
	Capacity building for the BCN technical regulation service	Fourth quarter of 2024-third quarter of 2025
	Support and guidance for the publication and dissemination of technical regulations	Third quarter of 2024
	Capacity building for regulators regarding good practices for developing and implementing technical regulations	Third quarter of 2024-second quarter of 2025
3. Promotion of the concept of legal metrology	Raising stakeholder awareness of the importance and challenges of metrology	Second quarter of 2023-second quarter of 2024
	Construction and fitting out of a national laboratory devoted to legal metrology	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Technical and human capacity building for the laboratory	Third quarter of 2024-third quarter of 2025
	Ensuring the traceability of measures at the national level, while ensuring their connection to international standards	Fourth quarter of 2024
4. Strengthen the national accreditation system	Appointment of a national accreditation officer to serve as the national focal point (NFP)	First quarter of 2024
	Technical capacity building for the NFP	Second quarter of 2024
	Creation of a partnership with regional and international accreditation bodies	Fourth quarter of 2024-second quarter of 2025
5. Establish a conformity assessment system for inspection, analysis and testing, and certification	Technical capacity building for inspection bodies, analysis and testing laboratories, and certification bodies	Third quarter of 2024
	Support for inspection bodies in establishing a quality management system with a view to obtaining ISO/IEC 17020 accreditation	First quarter of 2025
	Implementation of the national integrated control plan for improved collaboration between different structures	Fourth quarter of 2025
	Eliminate all barriers to inspection body access	Fourth quarter of 2025
	Establishment of procedures and dialogue for inter-laboratory comparison	First quarter of 2026

Description	Action to be taken	Time frame
	Support and assistance for laboratories in the accreditation process (ISO/IEC 17025 or 15189)	Second quarter of 2026
	Monitoring of the activities of other certification bodies	Third quarter of 2025
6. Establish an institutional, technical, environmental and cultural framework for quality promotion	Training and awareness-raising activities for enterprises regarding Quality Management Systems (QMS): ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO HACCP/ISO 22000, and good hygiene and manufacturing practices, etc.	First quarter of 2024
	Technical capacity building for quality management specialists regarding support structures	Third quarter of 2023
	Support for quality-related training/awareness-raising activities for suppliers of goods and services	First quarter of 2024
	Support for introducing metrology, standardization and quality management into national training institute courses	First quarter of 2025
	Creation of a quality concept platform	Second quarter of 2026
	Establishment of an expert and quality assessment committee	Fourth quarter of 2026
	Creation of a framework for consultation and dialogue among stakeholders on quality-related issues	First quarter of 2025
	Mobilization of a support fund for establishing the National Quality Office	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Revision of the legislative and regulatory texts governing national consumer culture	Second quarter of 2024
	Participation in the activities of international organizations responsible for quality and standardization	Third quarter of 2024
	Strengthening of the public-private dialogue on quality promotion	Fourth quarter of 2024

5. MEASURES RELATED TO THE FOREIGN TRADE REGIME

A. Measures during the accession process		
Description	Action to be taken	Time frame
Implementation of the Law on Foreign Trade	Review and signature of implementing texts	Fourth quarter of 2023
	Implementation of implementing texts	Fourth quarter of 2024
	Stakeholder outreach and awareness-raising regarding the Law on Foreign Trade	Fourth quarter of 2024
Establishment of the national notification authority	Identify the notification authority service	Fourth quarter of 2023
	Installation; provide the authority with equipment and the means to function	First quarter of 2024
	Capacity building for staff on the notification procedure	Second quarter of 2024
	Establishment of notification mechanisms and procedures	Third quarter of 2024
Implementation of trade defence measures	Nomination and appointment of members of the national anti-dumping and countervailing measures committee	First quarter of 2024
	Establishment of a service to monitor and follow up on trade defence measures under the foreign trade regime	Second quarter of 2024
	Provide these services with the means of operation (staff, and material and financial means)	Third quarter of 2024
	Training for committee and service members on the application of trade defence measures	Fourth quarter of 2024